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ment of the constitutional debt-incurring power of the city as of June 1, 1915. (New York: Dept. Finance. 1915. Pp. 8.)

Public budgets. (Philadelphia: Am. Acad. Pol. & Soc. Sci. Nov., 1915. Pp. 324. \$1.)

Report of the tax conference at the University of Oklahoma, Dec. 8 and 9, 1914. (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma. 1915. Pp. 123.)

Population and Migration

The Scandinavian Element in the United States. By KENDRIC CHARLES BABCOCK. University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences, Vol. III, No. 3. (Urbana: University of Illinois. 1914. Pp. 223. \$1.15.)

This is a valuable contribution to immigration literature. The first six chapters, upon the early progress of Scandinavian immigration, partake too much of the antiquarian interest of the papers read before local historical societies, but they bring out the early trials and difficulties of the immigrant and contrast vividly the economic conditions in Europe with the opportunities in the unsettled American Northwest.

The surprising amount of activity on the part of the north-western railroads and of the state governments of Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc., during the sixties and seventies, to attract Scandinavian immigrants is well described. So is the land hunger of the Norwegian, to describe to whom in his native country "land which was neither rocky, nor swampy, nor pure sand, nor set up at an angle of forty-five degrees, and which could be had for the asking . . . was to speak to his imagination rather than to his understanding." The author does not think that the immigrant has been an unfair competitor with the American for the land. He has simply been more willing to live the hard life of the pioneer. Nevertheless, it is admitted that "if the agricultural land of the vast West be looked upon as a national asset, to be held for cautious and discriminating distribution to examined and approved settlers, then it may be that the foreigner has occupied land which might sometime have fallen to a better man." The chapter on religious influences is extremely suggestive of the part religious prejudice may play in retarding the assimilation even of races of the Old Immigration. The two chapters on political matters are still more enlightening with regard to the role nationality is today playing in our local and state politics. Dean Babcock's estimate of the significance of this matter is indicated by the following:

It would be hard to suggest a more dangerous or disrupting experiment . . . than to attempt to "recognize" the various alien factors in complex public affairs. . . . Nothing would do more, for example, to develop the latent religious and racial antipathies between the Scandinavians and the Irish. The fundamental assumption, therefore, which lies back of all claims for "recognition" of Swedish-Americans or other hyphenated Americans, as such, savors of ward politics and the machine, rather than of political equity or right, and just so far as it does this it menaces social and political safety.

In view of the light the present war has thrown upon the realities and unrealities of assimilation these generalizations acquire considerable significance. In a final brief contrast between the north, and the south and east Europeans, as to assimilability, the author makes another pertinent observation: "Furthermore, no great and permanent causes centering in Europe continually demand their active and intense sympathy and financial aid, knitting them closely together, as in the case of the Irish or the Russians" [*i.e.*, Russian Jews?]. But why single out the Irish and the Hebrews? And haven't we read somewhere within a few months of the formation of a nationalistic Scandinavian association to encourage solidarity of language and culture? Nevertheless, Dean Babcock has succeeded admirably in maintaining a substantially unbiased and scientific attitude. As he says, "too much stress should never be laid on the character of any one group of immigrants, lest it warp the judgment upon the immigration movement as a factor in American progress."

The monograph closes with a critical essay on materials and authorities. The whole work is based upon prolonged study of sources.

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NEW BOOKS

BEHR-PINNOW. *Statistische Beiträge für die Beurteilung der Säuglingssterblichkeit in Preussen unter Benutzung von amtlichen Material.* (Charlottenburg: Verlag des Kaiserin-Auguste-Victoria-Hauses zur Bekämpfung der Säuglingssterblichkeit im Deutschen Reiche. 1915.)

CHERVIN, A. *L'Autriche et la Hongrie de demain. Les différentes nationalités d'après les langues parlées.* (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 1915.)

LEMANCZYK, A. *Die Geburtenfrequenz in der vorwiegend katholischen und den vorwiegend protestantischen Teilen Preussens und ihre Entwicklung.* (Munich: Duncker & Humblot. 1915.)